

4422 (3) LUTON
1 Mrs Bayne (Dw 5-13
2 Mrs Knowles (Besham House
3 Library

Luton Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the

YEAR 1952



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2974734x>

Luton Rural District Council

**ANNUAL
REPORTS**

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the

YEAR 1952

To the Luton Rural District Council

Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1952

The Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Luton Rural District for the year 1952.

The statistics require little comment. The population of the area shows a gradual increase from year to year, while birth and death rates remain constant.

Among the Infectious Diseases, five cases of paratyphoid fever were notified and two cases of food poisoning. There were 183 cases of measles.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk to the Council and the Sanitary Inspectors.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Luton.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions

1. Vital Statistics

Area of district, 48,590 acres.				
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	...	...	...	19,710
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	...	...	...	5,799
Rateable value as at 1st April	...	...	...	89,309
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	366
Number of new houses erected:				
(a) Council	...	...	...	79
(b) Private enterprise	...	...	...	19

Extracts from vital statistics for the year

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1952 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

Live Births :

Legitimate
Illegitimate
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...

Total	M.	F.
308	173	135
292	162	130
16	11	5
Crude Rate		15.6
Adjusted Rate		15.3

Still Births :

Legitimate
Illegitimate
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ...

Total	M.	F.
3	2	1
—	—	—
		9.6

Deaths :

Death Rate per 1,000 of population ...
--

Total	M.	F.
187	95	92
Crude Rate		9.5
Adjusted Rate		9.3

There were two maternal deaths in 1952, one of which occurred more than 12 months after the maternal condition causing death.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Total	8	Rate per 1,000 live births	25.9
Legitimate	7	Rate per 1,000 Legitimate live births	23.9
Illegitimate	1	Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	62.5
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			

NOTE:—Adjusted birth and death rates are obtained by multiplying the 'crude' rate by the area comparability factor supplied from the General Register Office. This factor for both births and deaths in the Luton Rural District is 0.98.

2. Population

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General for the last seven years are as follows:—

1946	...	...	17,630
1947	...	...	18,110
1948	...	...	18,600
1949	...	...	18,970
1950	...	...	19,290
1951	...	...	19,460
1952	...	...	19,710

The natural increase in the population or difference between the birth and death rates are as follows:—

1946	...	...	9.1
1947	...	...	8.9
1948	...	...	6.9
1949	...	...	8.1
1950	...	...	5.9
1951	...	...	5.1
1952	...	...	6.1

3 & 4. Birth and Death Rates

Year	Population	Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England & Wales	Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate for England & Wales
1946	17,630	340	19.3	19.1	178	10.2	11.5
1947	18,110	364	20.1	20.5	202	11.2	12.0
1948	18,600	339	18.2	17.9	211	11.3	19.8
1949	18,970	333	17.6	16.7	180	9.5	11.7
1950	19,290	324	16.8	15.8	212	10.9	11.6
1951	19,460	304	15.3	15.5	203	10.2	12.5
1952	19,710	308	15.3	15.3	187	9.3	11.3

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1952. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	LUTON RURAL DISTRICT	ENGLAND AND WALES	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County
BIRTHS:					
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
Live Births	15.3	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still Births	0.15	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
	9.6(a)	22.6(a)	24.6(a)	23.0(a)	19.2(a)
Deaths:					
All Causes	9.3	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.3	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Influenza	—	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox	—	0.00	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	—	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	0.65	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
Notifications (Corrected):					
Typhoid Fever	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.25	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	—	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	0.3	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough	1.42	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria	—	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	—	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	9.28	8.85	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia	0.10	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis), Paralytic	—	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis), Non-Paralytic	—	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food poisoning	0.10	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	17.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	30.77(a)
Deaths:					
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
All causes under 1 year of age ...	25.9	27.6(b)	31.2	25.8	23.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7
Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:					
	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		Rates per million women aged 15-44	
Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	—	61	0.09		
Abortion with toxæmia	—	13	0.02	1	
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	—	147	0.21		
Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	—	59	0.09		
Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	—	31	0.04	3	
Abortion with sepsis	—	47	0.07	5	
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	6.43	138	0.20		

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.
(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

6. Infant Mortality

The following table shows deaths of infants from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

		Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total under one year
		0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
Prematurity	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Mongolism	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Congenital Deformity	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Birth Injury	...	Age	unknown			1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	...	2	—	—	1	4	1	1	1	1	8

Deaths of Residents in the Rural District of Luton During the Year 1953

<i>Causes of Death.</i>						<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	3	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	1
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	4	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	6	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukamia	...	...	...	...	1	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	9	17
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	12	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	—	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	19	20
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	...	—	2
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	11	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	4	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
TOTALS						95	92

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1941-1952

Year	LIVE BIRTHS			STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS				
	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,003 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births	
												Sepsis	Other	Total		
1941	19,940	330	16.5	7	20.8	222	11.1	7	7	15	42	—	—	—	—	—
1942	18,190	332	17.8	9	27.1	202	11.1	8	7	15	56	—	1	—	1	3.0
1943	17,480	319	18.2	12	36.3	192	10.9	7	5	12	38	—	—	—	—	—
1944	17,590	353	20.1	10	27.5	204	11.6	9	8	17	48	—	1	—	1	2.8
1945	17,250	293	16.9	8	26.6	174	10.1	1	4	5	17	—	—	—	—	—
1946	17,630	340	19.3	7	20.2	178	10.2	4	3	7	21	—	1	—	1	2.9
1947	18,110	364	20.1	10	26.7	202	11.2	6	4	10	27	—	1	—	8	2.7
1948	18,600	339	18.2	10	28.7	211	11.3	8	6	14	41	—	—	—	—	—
1949	18,970	333	17.6	8	23.5	180	9.5	6	2	8	24	1	—	—	1	2.9
1950	19,290	324	16.5	10	29.9	212	10.7	12	5	17	52	—	—	—	—	—
1951	19,460	304	15.3	6	19.4	203	10.2	2	1	3	10	—	—	—	—	—
1952	19,710	308	15.3	3	9.6	187	9.3	4	4	8	25.9	—	2	—	2	6.4

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1-</i>	<i>3-</i>	<i>5-</i>	<i>10-</i>	<i>25-</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever				6			6
Whooping Cough	2	9	10	7			28
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)							
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)							
Measles (excluding rebecca)	3	31	42	93	9	5	183
Diphtheria							
Ac. pneumonia			1			1	2
Dysentery						1	1
Smallpox							
Ac. encephalitis (Infective)							
Ac. encephalitis (Post-Infectious)							
Enteric or Typhoid fever							
Paratyphoid fevers	1			1	3		5
Erysipelas							
Meningococcal infection							
Food poisoning		1		1			2
Puerperal pyrexia							
Ophthalmia neonatorum							
Infective Hepatitis						1	1
TOTALS	6	41	52	108	12	8	228

Note :— DIPHTHERIA.

The Diphtheria death in the table on page 5 occurred in a female aged 24 years who died from heart block caused by Diphtheritic myocarditis during infancy.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952

<i>Age periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Under 1 year	1							
1 year				2			1	
5 years			1					
10 "								
15 "	1							
20 "	2	1		1				
25 "	4	2						
35 "	3	3		1		1		
45 "	1	1			1	1		
55 "					1			
65 and upwards	2				1			
TOTALS	14	7	1	4	3	2	1	

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1952

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY

Main Water

88 samples were taken from the various main supplies within the district. 44 of these proved to be highly satisfactory, 43 were satisfactory and one report indicated slight pollution which was eventually traced to the tap from which the water had been drawn.

The main supplies at Toddington and Kensworth have also been chemically examined and the reports indicate that the supplies are of good quality and that there is no evidence of pollution.

Private Water Supplies

58 samples were obtained with the following results:—

29 highly satisfactory.

14 satisfactory

15 indicating slight pollution.

With respect to the supplies where the results were not up to standard steps were taken to cause the properties to be connected to the main supply where such was available, and in other cases the cause of the pollution was investigated and the necessary steps taken to remove same. In some instances advice was given to the owner or the householder on chlorination measures sufficient to render the water fit for drinking.

Water Main Extensions

During the year steps were taken to ensure that dwelling houses situated within a reasonable distance of recent water main extensions were connected thereto. These areas included Kensworth Lynch and Church End, Bidwell Hill and Pepperstock.

Investigations are also proceeding in the parishes of Stanbridge, Tilsworth and Eaton Bray, with a view to having connected to the main supply, those properties still resorting to the use of well water.

1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sanitary circumstances in the following parishes continue to give rise to much disquiet:— Barton, Caddington, Chalgrave, Heath and Reach, Streatley, Tilsworth.

This is due to various factors, viz:— many dwelling houses discharging their drainage into ditches which however frequently cleansed cannot be maintained in a satisfactory condition. The only proper solution of these grave problems is the installation of sewers with adequate disposal works to deal with the drainage from the various villages in these parishes. It would appear to be unreasonable to put the owners of these properties to the expense of constructing septic tanks or cesspools which would cost practically as much and in some cases more per house than the installation of a sewerage system, added to which is the cost of cesspool emptying and the increasing difficulty being met with in disposing of cesspool emptying contents.

In the parishes of Caddington and Streatley the problem consists chiefly of the difficulty in emptying cesspools at intervals sufficiently frequent to prevent overflowing with its subsequent annoyance and nuisance. Whereas in the parish

of Barton the completely inadequate sewage disposal works, which was designed to take sink waste only from a small number of houses, is being expected to take w.c. drainage from those houses which discharged sink waste into the sewer originally and a large number of new houses most of which have at least two w.c.s and which have been connected to the sewer in the post-war years. The position at Barton is such that the effluent consists almost entirely of crude sewage, and from a public health point of view the position here has assumed alarming proportions. In fact, it is quite impossible to make any progress in the sanitary administration of these villages while such conditions obtain and contravene some of the elementary principles of good sanitary administration.

It will be quite impossible to prevent the pollution of rivers and streams in these parishes if permission is not granted very soon to install sewerage schemes which are the only effectual means of receiving and treating drainage in a manner which will provide effluents which will satisfy the Rivers Catchment Boards.

Cesspool Emptying

During the year four cesspool emptiers were in regular service with one reserve which was brought into increasing regular use. There appears to be a reluctance on the part of workmen to accept jobs on this service and efforts to obtain labour from various sources including the Ministry of Labour have failed. This is a factor which only goes to stress the difficulties briefly mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs.

During the year 4,290 cesspools were emptied comprising 8,600 loads. These figures show some increase on the previous year and have been arrived at as a result of an increasing amount of overtime work by the existing staff.

The number of cesspools in the district continue to increase with new Council Housing Schemes, new private houses and improvements to existing dwelling houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts. The parishes of Caddington and Streatley make greater demands on this service than the collective demands from the remaining parishes in the district, thus stressing again the urgent need for sewerage these parishes.

Disposal of Cesspool Emptier Contents

Under this heading the position outlined in my 1951 report can be reiterated word for word. Efforts are being made to persuade farmers to provide sites for disposal, and some have made their land available for this purpose, but the duration usually after harvesting and before the plough is used on the land again, is rather short.

1. (iii) PONDS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES

See Report on Drainage and Sewerage.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

See Report on Drainage and Sewerage.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The conversion of privy middens and pail closets into water closets is almost completed in the parish of Toddington, except at those dwelling houses which during the year 1953 will be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936. In the parish of Barton the schemes of conversion have had to be halted by reason of the fact that the sewage disposal works is totally inadequate to deal with the sewage already passing through it. Progress under this heading is bound to be extremely slow where no sewers are available.

3. (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse Collection

During the year the household refuse collection was carried out on an average of twice a month. The increasing number of new houses and moveable dwellings in the district obviously tends to increase the interval between collections. During the year three 11 cub. yd. vehicles were in use, there being a driver/loader and two loaders on two of the vehicles and a driver/loader and one loader on the third vehicle. In a Rural District there appears to be no advantage in increasing the number of loaders on the vehicles as by reason of the lesser density of the houses per acre obtaining as compared with Urban areas or towns the provision of additional labour may result in lowering efficiency. The only satisfactory means of maintaining or improving the collection would be the addition of a fourth vehicle and arranging a driver/loader and one loader on each of the four vehicles. Furthermore, it has been found to be extremely difficult to find labour for this type of work, and this state of affairs tends to support the view that an additional vehicle rather than additional labour is the best approach to providing more frequent collections.

Refuse Disposal

During the year disposal of refuse at Gatehouse Farm, Caddington, was completed, the clay pits available having been filled and the surface reinstated. The principal refuse tips serving the district are now located at Park Road, Toddington, and Heath and Reach. By arrangement with Luton Borough, refuse from Barton and Streatley parishes is disposed of at their tip for the sum of 2/6d. per ton and refuse from the parishes of Kensworth, Whipsnade and Studham is disposed of on the Dunstable Borough tip for the sum of £20 per annum.

Salvage

At the beginning of the year waste paper merchants were paying £16 10s. 0d. per ton for this commodity. By the end of June the price had dropped to £8 10s. 0d. per ton, and by the end of the year this figure had dropped to £6 10s. 0d. per ton. The price being offered for old rags and metals remained fairly constant and the following is a summary of income, etc., received from the sale of waste material during the first six months of the year:—

Waste Paper	...	...	...	...	£201	2	8
Old Iron	...	...	...	...	9	18	0
Mixed Metal	...	...	...	...	15	2	6
Light Scrap Iron	...	...	...	...	5	10	0
Old Rags	...	...	...	...	18	12	0

The summary for the second half of the year is as follows:—

Waste Paper	...	...	...	...	£87	6	9
Old Iron	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Mixed Metal	...	...	...	...	9	11	0
Light Scrap Iron	...	...	...	...	5	13	9
Old Rags	...	...	...	...	14	10	0

Trade Refuse

A special collection is arranged at intervals of twice a month at business premises within the district where trade refuse is accumulated. The charge for this service amounts to 10/6d. per bin per annum for a twice-monthly collection.

3. (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, re-inspections, investigations, visits, interviews, etc., carried out during the year:—

GENERAL SANITATION

Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	204
Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	38
Refuse/Accumulation, Deposits, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	72
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	55
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	102
Dangerous Wells	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous and reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	9

NUISANCES

Premises (defects)	...	...	...	...	...	173
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	4
Disinfestation (Bugs, fleas)	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ (Other Insects)	...	...	...	...	...	25
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	26
Smoke and Dust	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rodents	...	...	...	...	...	220
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits and Reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	247

SPECIAL PREMISES

Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	27
Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	15
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	66
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	42
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	199
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	5

FOOD

General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	12
Butcher's Shop	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Shops and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	47
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	85
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	30
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	4

MILK AND ICE CREAM

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	42
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	96
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	19
Ice Cream Retail Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	...	44
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	73
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	33
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	41

CLEANSING SERVICES	412
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

HOUSING

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	82
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	17
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	179
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	10

MISCELLANEOUS

Establishment	...	...	...	...	...	2
Burial Acts	...	...	...	...	...	3
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	3
Emergency Meals	...	...	...	...	...	35
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	...	3
Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	2
Virological Survey	...	...	...	...	...	2

3. (iv) Abatement of Nuisances

82 Nuisances were abated during the year. In four instances it was found necessary to resort to Statutory Action in order to cause Nuisances to be abated. The increasing costs of building works related to the fixed rental of dwelling houses tends to delay the abatement of Nuisances, most of which are due to structural defects or conditions of disrepair in dwelling houses.

3. (v) MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The position here is being maintained at a reasonable standard and generally the conditions attached to licences granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 are being complied with. All Moveable Dwellings are inspected at least once a year and where there appears to be a tendency to lower the standard, inspections are carried out at more frequent intervals.

During the year Town Planning approval with conditions was granted in connection with a large site in the parish of Totternhoe and at the end of the year there were 30 caravans on the land.

At the end of the year there were 171 Moveable Dwellings under licence in the Rural District, by far the largest proportion of these (130) are in the parishes of Whipsnade, Totternhoe, Caddington and Houghton Regis.

The complaints received from time to time about Moveable Dwellings which are in these cases always referred to as caravans, relate to unsightliness rather than insanitary conditions. Large numbers of Moveable Dwellings on a small site can be most objectionable in appearance, but on sites such as obtain at Whipsnade and similar sites where these are stationed in orchards, they can be quite a pleasing feature. The sub-standard caravan and converted bus is the problem in this respect and conditions of disrepair, condensation, etc., can more readily arise in this type of structure than in the modern de-luxe Moveable Dwelling which is constructed in a manner which prevents conditions of dampness arising. However, it must be borne in mind that sanitary conditions obtaining at most of the Moveable Dwellings are sub-standard, water has to be carried, night soil has to be buried and sink waste has to be deposited by methods which would soon give rise to a Nuisance if scrupulous care was not maintained. Furthermore, the floor areas of Moveable Dwellings is such that by normal housing standards overcrowding obtains and in my opinion this type of structure should, no longer than is absolutely necessary, be used as permanent housing accommodation.

3. (vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT

The position at the National Service Hostel, Sundon Park, has been kept under observation and there has been very little evidence of excessive emission of smoke.

Dust Emission

A Dust Deposit Gauge was installed in Houghton Regis on the 1st September for the purpose of measuring quantities of dust deposited. The information being obtained has been supplied to the Fuel Research Council, the Inspector of Alkali Works, etc., and also to the manager of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers. It will not be possible to determine whether or not, as a result of measuring the amount of dust deposited, any immediate results will be forthcoming as it takes at least twelve months' figures to obtain information which may be helpful in this respect. Whilst appreciating that it is not possible to manufacture cement without making dust, in view of the close proximity of the works at Houghton Regis to dwelling houses, it is imperative, for public health reasons and to some extent for domestic reasons, that the emission of dust should be reduced to a minimum.

3. (vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no Swimming Baths in the district.

3. (viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND FLEAS

No. of Council houses found to be infested	...	...	0
" " disinfested	...	...	0
No. of other houses found to be infested	...	...	4
" " disinfested	...	...	4

3. (ix) ERADICATION OF FURNITURE BEETLE

Since circulating Council House tenants with regard to assistance the Public Health Department are able to afford in treating infested furniture, many applications have been received from these tenants and it would appear that treatment has been effective and the advice given to tenants has, without doubt, been appreciated by them. Information and advice has also been sought by householders in private houses. Infestations by the furniture beetle (*anobium punctatum*) appear to be on the increase. Many infestations appear to be due to the neglect of outbuildings, poultry houses, etc., which become easily infested if the position is not watched. When such buildings are demolished the timber is taken into the home for fire wood and with it very often the beetle.

SECTION D—HOUSING

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 255 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 434 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | — |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | — |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 14 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 208 |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses found to be satisfactory | 33 |
| (6) Number of houses placed in Category 5 (Rural Housing Survey) which were rendered fit for habitation | 4 |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers 83

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

- (1)(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners 0
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owner 0
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 3
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners 3
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0
 - (1a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 173
 - (2a) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices 164
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0
 - (3) Number of unfit dwelling-houses demolished 3
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4. HOUSING ACT 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING

17 investigations were made in connection with suspected overcrowding, 11 of which were confirmed. In almost every case the overcrowded family was under consideration for rehousing by the Council's Tenancy Committee or by an adjoining Authority. The progress being made with the rehousing of overcrowded families during the post-war years has practically eliminated the overcrowding problem, although new cases constantly recur where newly-weds have to reside with one or other of their parents. The seat of this problem where it does exist appears to be

due to small dwelling houses which become vacant being sold with vacant possession and not relet and made available for these young couples. It would appear, however, that in the not too distant future the law with respect to overcrowding standards should be amended, as for the purpose of assessing overcrowding under existing law living rooms are included and may be counted as capable of being used as bedrooms. It is desirable that a new overcrowding standard should be arrived at relating to rooms used as bedrooms only.

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A good deal of attention was afforded to the supervision of food premises, canteens and catering establishments in the district. 174 visits were made during the year. It is the ultimate objective to pay monthly visits to such premises. Where contraventions of the Act and Food Byelaws have been found, informal notice has been sent to the persons concerned, and the majority of owners, managements and staffs have been very co-operative. As stated in my Report for 1951 the number of persons selling food from vehicles in the district is increasing, and these will have to be made subject to more control.

Licensed Premises

A start was made on the inspection of all licensed premises in the district with particular attention to washing facilities and sanitary accommodation. Most of these had constant hot and cold water with a sink available and once again the owners have been found co-operative where works of improvement have been suggested to them.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks reported during the year.

A case which occurred in the area of a neighbouring Authority was traced to duck eggs obtained from a farm within this district. Six duck eggs were obtained from the farm for bacteriological examination, but *Salmonella-shigella* food poisoning organisms were *not* isolated.

Damage to Food Supplies

Considerable quantities of tinned foods are still being condemned as unfit for human consumption due to damage in transit. In these cases the contents are usually sound but the tins are unmarketable due to damage and corrosion during transit and storage.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The following quantities of foods were voluntarily surrendered on being found to be unfit for human consumption.

Orange Cordial	...	...	...	...	...	1	decanter
Tca ($\frac{1}{4}$ lb. pkts.)	...	...	...	...	...	20	pkts.
Oranges (14 oz. tins)	...	...	...	...	...	4	tins
Pineapple (16 oz. tin)	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Peaches (1 lb. 14 oz. tin)	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Peeled Tomatoes (14 oz. tins)	...	...	...	...	...	10	tins
(510 grms.)	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Pink Salmon (15½ oz. tin)	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Cornish Pilchards (15 oz. tin)	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Mince Beef Loaf (12 oz. tins)	...	...	...	...	...	3	tins
Danish Pork (12 oz. tins)	...	...	...	...	...	2	tins
Condensed Milk (1¼ pt. tins)	...	...	...	...	...	2	tins
Irish Pork Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	62	lbs.

Vegetarian Rusk and Tomato Sauce	...	...	23	lbs.
Beef Sausages	...	...	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Dough	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	ton
Flour (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. bags)	...	...	44	bags
Castor Sugar	...	...	2	cwts.
Cake Margarine	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	cwt.
Cakes and Pastries	...	...	1	cwt.
Milk Powder	...	...	1	cwt.
Ground Almonds	...	...	1	cwt.
Sweet Fat	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	cwt.
Baker's Chocolate	...	...	2	cwts.
Quartern Loaves ($\frac{1}{2}$)	...	...	60	loaves
Luncheon Meat (12 oz. tins)	...	...	2	tins
Irish Pressed Veal and Ham	...	...	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce (16 oz. tins)	...	...	18	tins
Beans in Tomato Sauce (16 oz. tins)	...	...	3	tins
Garden Peas (15 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins)	...	...	2	tins
Processed Peas (8 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins)	...	...	11	tins
Whole Garden Carrots (A.2)	...	...	1	tin
Stewed Steak (1 lb. tins)	...	...	14	tins
Fruit Mincemeat (12 oz. tins)	...	...	2	tins
Christmas Pudding (1 lb. tin)	...	...	1	tin
Sliced Bananas (1 lb. tin)	...	...	1	tin
Crushed Pineapple (20 ozs.)	...	...	4	tins
Prunes in Syrup (14 oz. tins)	...	...	1	tin
Soup Squares (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.)	...	...	3	pkts.
Sandwich Spread (4 oz. jars)	...	...	6	jars
Sandwich Cake	...	...	12	lbs.
Madeira Cake	...	...	7	lbs.
Evaporated Milk (14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins)	...	...	4	tins
Plums (15 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tin)	...	...	1	tin
Dutch Pears (13 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tin)	...	...	1	tin
Peaches (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tin)	...	...	1	tin
Fish Paste (3 oz. jars)	...	...	7	jars
Cooked Ham	...	...	20	lbs.
Cream and Jam Rolls	...	...	29	rolls
Green Beans (1 lb. 12 oz. tins)	...	...	2	tins
Grapefruit Segments (1 lb. 4 oz. tins)	...	...	1	tin
Chicken Paste (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. jar)	...	...	1	jar
Self-Raising Flour	...	...	6	lbs.
Scott's Oats (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. pkts.)	...	...	1	pkt.
Farleys Rusks	...	...	6	pkts.
Dessicated Coconut	...	...	12	ozs.
Cake Flour	...	...	1	pkt.
Evaporated Milk (1 pt. tins)	...	...	2	tins
Apricots (12 oz. tins)	...	...	2	tins
Herring Roes (3 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. tin)	...	...	1	tin
Irish Stew (1 lb. tins)	...	...	2	tins
Raspberries (16 oz. tin)	...	...	1	tin
Milk (16 oz. tins)	...	...	2	tins
Soup (10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tins)	...	...	4	tins
Greengages (16 oz. tin)	...	...	1	tin
Cut Peel (8 oz. pkts.)	...	...	10	pkts.
Cocoa ($\frac{1}{4}$ lb. pkt.)	...	...	1	pkt.
Cream	...	...	1	carton

Groats (8 oz. tin)	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Figs	...	...	...	...	...	7	lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Cake Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	4	pkts.
Butter Beans (15½ oz. tin)	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Tomato Soup (10½ oz. tin)	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Braised Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	1	tin

Milk—Report on Milk Sampling

Ungraded	Satisfactory	...	33
	Unsatisfactory	...	4
Accredited	Satisfactory	...	2
	Unsatisfactory	...	0
Pasteurised	Satisfactory	...	32
	Unsatisfactory	...	0
Tuberculin Tested	Satisfactory	...	7
	Unsatisfactory	...	1
Tuberculin Tested (Past)	Satisfactory	...	1
	Unsatisfactory	...	0
Sterilized	Satisfactory	...	3
	Unsatisfactory	...	0

Where the samples have failed to pass the statutory test, inspections have been made, further samples taken and where necessary the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture has been informed.

Milk Supplies—Milk Taint

During the month of August complaints were received from parts of the district and from consumers living in the district of other Authorities of milk tasting of “fish” and other taint. On being investigated the following factors became evident:—

1. Cows had been fed on fish cakes and other concentrates during June and July, there having been very little rain to produce the growth of sufficient grass. On the farms where this trouble occurred large quantities of fertilizer produced from waste fish are being used.

2. In an instance involving a large T.T. milk producer and where complaints have been of taint and separation of the cream into “little lumps” it was found that the cows had been feeding on grass which had shortly before been sprayed with a selective weed-killer.

It is difficult to establish any definite connection between these factors, and the National Dairy Institute at Shinfield have informed me that this matter is being kept under constant observation.

Other factors accounting for taint would be the presence of “chamomile” and “fleabane” weed amongst the grass. “Lucerne” also adds a strong flavour to milk when the cows feed on it, and on discussing this matter with the Laboratory Director he informed me that “skunk weed” has been known to influence the flavour of cream and butter.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949

Accredited Milk Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised Milk Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sterilized Milk Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	4

Pasteurised Milk Dealers Supplementary	...	...	3
Sterilized Milk Dealers Supplementary	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers Supplementary	...	...	2
Retail Purveyors	...	...	20

A start has been made on the inspection of Dairies used by Distributors of Milk in the Rural District. 42 visits have been made for this purpose. Conditions found so far have been generally satisfactory.

Factories Act 1937

During the year 47 inspections were carried out in factories including bakehouses. Special attention has been given to the hygienic management of the bakehouses. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. The number of small bakehouses continues to decrease. One bakehouse went out of use during the year. It is impossible in the older type of bakehouse to maintain conditions which satisfy modern standards, and these have to be given more attention.

Ice Cream

44 samples were taken during the year and the results obtained were as follows:—

Provisional Grade 1	(Good)	...	...	...	...	19
" " 2	(Fairly Good)	...	...	...	...	14
" " 3	(Fair)	...	...	...	...	10
" " 4	(Poor)	...	...	...	...	1

Where Grades 3 or 4 results are obtained check samples are obtained until Grades 1 or 2 are attained.

Ice Lollies

Satisfactory	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory	...	...	1
Highly Unsatisfactory	...	...	1

In view of the increasing popularity of these with the children a greater measure of supervision will become necessary.

A further three premises were registered for the Sale and Storage of Ice Cream. Where ice cream is sold from a general store prepacking is insisted upon.

Rodent Control

All sewers were test-baited during the year. It is pleasing to know that all but two systems were entirely free of rodents and in these two cases the infestation was very small. The subsequent poisoning treatment was very satisfactory. With the constant breaking into the sewer as housing estates are enlarged and new buildings constructed it is increasingly important that rodents in the sewers should be kept under control.

The situation with regard to rats in the district appears to be well under control although the rate of breeding amongst them is such that the least relaxation means early evidence of minor infestations. Control at Refuse Tips in the District is effective.

With regard to mice the effect of 10 years of Rodent Control has not been so effective. This is evident particularly at rows of older type houses where the areas over bedroom ceilings are open along the row of houses. Control in the future will be directed moreso to the destruction of mice.

OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR

Infectious Disease

All cases of Infectious Disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health are investigated by Sanitary Officers of the Public Health Department who carry out the works of disinfection where necessary. These investigations also extend to cases of Cervical Tuberculosis.

Cysticercus Bovis

Where cases of this disease are found in slaughterhouses which are situated within the area of other Authorities information is transmitted to my department if the beast concerned has been bought from a farmer or cattle dealer within the district.

3 such cases have been reported during the year and on investigation it was found that the beasts had passed through the hands of cattle dealers but had not been grazing within the district for more than 24 hours.

Petroleum Regulations 1928 — 1936

Once a year at least, the above-ground installations are examined to see that the ventilation shafts are secure and that there is no escape of petroleum gasses from the holders. These inspections are carried out in the month of July when all licences under these Acts are renewed as from the first of this month.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 50. Burial of the Dead

During the year two cases of persons without relatives or means were found dead within the district and the necessary arrangements for burials, etc., were carried out.

Miscellaneous, etc.

The inspection of piggeries, sanitary conveniences in factories, surveying disused wells for dangerous covers, etc., the inspection of second-hand furniture, inspection of wood-beetle infestations and treatment, and the Pet Animals Act 1951, all come within the day to day general duties and control of the Sanitary Inspector's office.

Civil Defence

The Department are responsible for the organisation of the Emergency Meals Service and this has resulted in the investigation of resources available at all Catering Establishments whether Commercial, Industrial or Schools.

Public Health Department — Staff

During the year, Mr. W. T. Stone, Additional Sanitary Inspector, was appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Witney Rural District Council. Mr. R. G. Burch was appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector in September.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. HILL,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.